

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An injection needle comprising a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said proximal end section, wherein

said proximal end section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.35 mm to 1 mm,

said puncture section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm,

the length from said puncture section to said tapered section ranges from 0.2 mm to 15 mm;

said tapered section possesses an outer profile forming an angle ranging from 0.5 degree to 1 degree and 20 minutes with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of the injection needle, and

said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The injection needle according to claim 1, wherein said tapered section has outer and inner profiles each having a tapered structure.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid introducing instrument for being mounted on a liquid inlet port formed on a distal end of a liquid container that is capable of holding a liquid therein, comprising:

an injection needle having a puncture section having a needle point capable of piercing a living body, a proximal end section having outside and inside diameters greater than said puncture section, and a tapered section interconnecting said puncture section and said proximal end section, wherein

said proximal end section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.35 mm to 1 mm,

said puncture section possesses an outside diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm,

the length from said puncture section to said tapered section ranges from 0.2 mm to 15 mm,

said tapered section possess an outer profile forming an angle ranging from 0.5 degree to 1 degree and 20 minutes with respect to a line parallel to a central axis of said injection needle, and

said tapered section provides puncture resistance smaller than said puncture section; and

a base body supporting said injection needle;

wherein said puncture section and said tapered section protrude from said base body.

5. (Original) The liquid introducing instrument according to claim 4, wherein said injection needle has a liquid introducing needle section that can communicate with the interior of said liquid container.

6. (Deleted)